**Meeting Notes**

Improving Student Learning to Scale, *National Governor’s Association Site Visit*

Rules Room, Lt. Governor’s Office, Washington State Capitol Building

October 22, 2013, 1:00pm- 4:00pm

**Attendees (listed alphabetically by first name)**

***ISLS Primary and Secondary Team Members-*** Alan Burke (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction), Ben Rarick (State Board for Education), Chris Thompson (Independent Colleges of Washington), Cody Eccles (Council of Presidents), Gene Sharratt (Student Achievement Council), Jan Yoshiwara (State Board for Community & Technical Colleges), Jana Carlisle (Partnership for Learning), Noreen Light (Student Achievement Council), Randy Spaulding (Student Achievement Council)

***National Governor’s Association and National Conference of State Legislatures Staff-*** Julie Bell, Kate Nielson, Ryan Reyna

***Guests and Other Staff-*** Aaron Wyatt,Anne Messerly, Ismalia Maidadi, Rai Nauman Mumtaz

**Overview of Meeting**

The meeting began with introductions around the room, followed by comments from Kate Nielson from the National Governor’s Association. She discussed why we were here and the importance of engaging Legislators for Common Core Standards implementation. Kate explained why the team was selected for the grant, which led into a large group discussion of what each sector viewed as the main goals of the grant. During the goals discussion, the representatives from each sector explained their state vision for education reform; and everyone agreed on the importance of cross agency collaboration as a critical element for success. Kate reviewed the Self-assessment tool and then gave the team its ‘homework assignment’ for the cross-state ISLS meeting in Los Angeles.

***Overview of Project, Discussion of application (Kate Nielson, NGA):***

National Governor’s Association (NGA) and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) stated their task is to help states implement Common Core who didn’t receive money or resources. They will provide support for the team and help with policy reform in any way possible.

The Student Achievement Council won the grant because their application stood out as being a collaborative proposal that brought important stakeholders together. Other states that won the grant are California, Arizona, Wyoming, West Virginia, and New Hampshire. The grant provides the funding aspect, and NGA will be there was a resource for the group as they continue their efforts.

***Overview of Goals (Team Members):***

Randy Spaulding (WSAC)- We do collaborative work in Washington, and are mindful of how external stakeholders and entities fit in to the work we’re doing. There are different agencies working in the K-12 Sector like OSPI and State board for Education, and different higher education entities such as Independent Colleges, Community Colleges, 4 year publics, etc… Our role is to bring these diverse folks together. We are focusing on questions such as:

* How does the 11th grade assessment affect student choices?
* Is the communication sector passing along the same information to parents and students?
* Guiding Question 🡪How do we coordinate these activities?
* How do we deliver dual credit coursework based on 11th grade assessment?

Alan Burke (OSPI)- OSPI has partnered with larger school districts and is trying to get Legislators information about Common Core State Standards (CCSS). K-8 will have good participation for Smarter Balanced assessment field tests; however we are having difficulty with participation among high schools. Another issue is although educators seem to understand Common Core, there is a lack of knowledge among parents. We should work with Ready WA in addressing some of these concerns.

Also, we should continue to work with community colleges and 4 year institutions so this assessment does count for students. A few possibilities for the purpose of the assessment:

* To help with placement in a community college
* Use in adjunct to SAT/ACT for college admission requirements

Jan Yoshiwara (SBCTC)- We have a strong history in Washington of all sectors of education working together. Our goal is to have a common policy across higher education for what incentives/messages we provide to students about why to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment test--- because it will give them a good start on college.

The community and technical college sector has the same college readiness standards as a 4 year institution, the only difference is we will let you in anyway even if you’re not ready (you will just have to take remedial coursework). Our goal is to try to be clearer with high school students about college readiness standards so that they can shoot for that target.

***State Vision (Team Members):***

Q: Ryan 🡪 Is there 1 vision of college readiness among everyone?

Ben Rarick (SBE)- We define it through course taking requirements, assessments & employment.

Randy Spaulding (WSAC)- Our state has a college readiness definition, with both academic learning and non-academic components. Common Core standards change the academic standards but not the non-academic factors.

Jan Yoshiwara (SBCTC)- We want to add a transition course to this, developed by both high schools and colleges.

Randy Spaulding (WASC)- The challenge is building confidence around the assessment for measuring college standards. Stakeholders want assurance that the Smarter Balanced Assessment will ensure college readiness.

Chris Thompson (ICW)- Each of our members are autonomous, we don’t have authority over colleges but we can provide them with information.

Q: Kate 🡪 What level of faculty engagement that goes on?

Jan Yoshiwara (SBCTC)- We have convened faculty groups from each of the sectors as work groups, sometimes around 60-80 people. This is enough people to get diversity yet still reach a consensus. We try to get individuals who are opinion leaders in their respective discipline groups.

Q: Ryan 🡪 Is there an anti-assessment attitude?

Alan Burke (OSPI)- We’ve seen some problems on the far left or far right but overall there hasn’t been a backlash. Next Generation Science Standards have had support without getting any media.

Jana (Partnership for Learning)- It has helped that we work with all different associations on our ReadyWA campaign.

***Educational Reform (Team Members):***

Q: Ryan 🡪 What communication and/or initiatives are currently going on?

* Development of a transition course
* Cross-agency communication important to bring examples of alternatives in
* Consider multi-state aspect; for example in California they have an alternative English course
* Diploma requirements don’t currently line up with Smarter Balanced/ Common Core expectation; can we line up 2 different assessment systems? Make Common Core a requirement for high school graduation?

Q: What major education reform initiatives have affected Washington?

* Community College professional development
* Teacher and Principal evaluation
* 24 credit diploma
* Legislation last year passed which raised school accountability
* More funding for basic education (McCleary Decision)
* STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics)
* Career & College Readiness Task Force
* Disability Task Force
* Bridge Courses/ Dual Credit

***Self-Assessment Tool (NGA):***

A critical aspect of the self-assessment tool is everyone does it themselves. When thinking about self-assessment, think about the vision and also the main components involved (policy, alignment, system resources, communication, and performance management). There are more specific tasks and guiding questions for each section.

***Homework and overview of cross-state meeting in Los Angeles (NGA):***

On the 18th, we will discuss each state’s vision of education reform and do a group activity with the self-assessment. We will continue with a discussion on policy and performance management.

On the 19th, we will focus on communications.

Your homework for this meeting is to create 1 PowerPoint slide (for the team) which shows your state’s vision of education reform.

**For any questions or comments, please contact Anne Messerly at the WSAC**

[**annem@wsac.wa.gov**](mailto:annem@wsac.wa.gov)

**(360) 753- 7855**